

# Overview of Battelle Memorial Institute

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# Battelle's purposes stem from the will of steel industrialist Gordon Battelle

- Charitable trust
- Scientific research and development
- Creative activities of a scientific nature
- Reduction to practice and licensing of inventions, discoveries, and developments
- Advancement of learning and better education of men and women for employment (refueling the education pipeline)



# Key Battelle Features

- Non-profit charitable trust — began operations in 1929
- 79 years of research and development leadership
- Major businesses are contract R&D, laboratory operations, and commercialization/commercial ventures
- Conduct more than \$4 billion in annual R&D
  - More than 3,200 projects for 1,100 industrial and government customers
  - More than 130 locations
  - Conduct R&D business in more than 30 countries
  - 20,000 employees worldwide (including labs we manage or co-manage)

# Major Technology Centers



**Battelle Corporate Headquarters**  
Columbus, Ohio



**Ocean Sciences Laboratory**  
Duxbury, Massachusetts



**Marine Sciences Laboratory**  
Sequim, Washington



**Battelle Europe**  
Geneva, Switzerland



**Battelle Eastern Science  
and Technology Center**  
Aberdeen, Maryland



**Brookhaven National Laboratory**  
Upton, New York



**Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**  
Richland, Washington



**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



**National Renewable Energy  
Laboratory**  
Golden, Colorado



**Idaho National Laboratory**  
Idaho Falls, Idaho



**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**  
Livermore, California



**National Biodefense Analysis and  
Countermeasures Center**  
Ft. Detrick, Maryland

# Synergistic Businesses Operations

## Laboratory Operations

serves a national interest and provides the primary **source of S&T and IP** for clients of Global Business Units and Battelle Ventures

## Global Business Units

**integrates the S&T and IP** into innovative solutions to significant problems of clients for a fee, generating cash flow to support renewal and charitable distributions

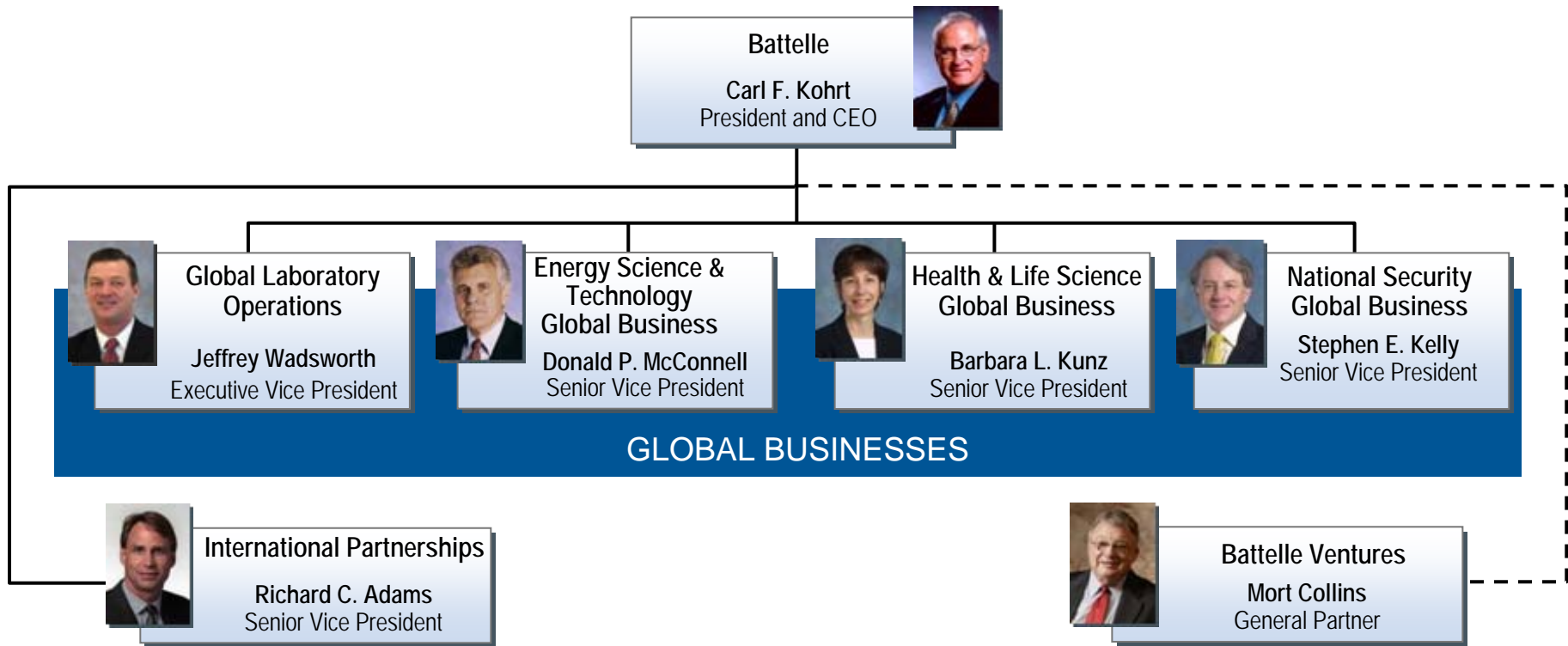
## Battelle Ventures

provides contemporary **commercial marketplace knowledge** and significant financial returns to the Labs and Battelle, for renewal and distribution to the community



Assuring  
Sustainability  
of Battelle

# Battelle Business Operations





# Contract R&D Clients

Some of Battelle's contract R&D clients:

## **Commercial**

Johnson & Johnson

Ford

Procter and Gamble

Eli Lilly

Emerson Electric

Caterpillar

Bayer

Mitsubishi

DuPont

American Electric Power

Kodak

Invacare

Honda

Merck

## **Government**

DOE

DoD

Homeland Security

EPA

Regional and Local Transportation Authorities

NASA

DOT

NIH

HHS

# SOLAR THERMOCHEMICAL FUEL PRODUCTION

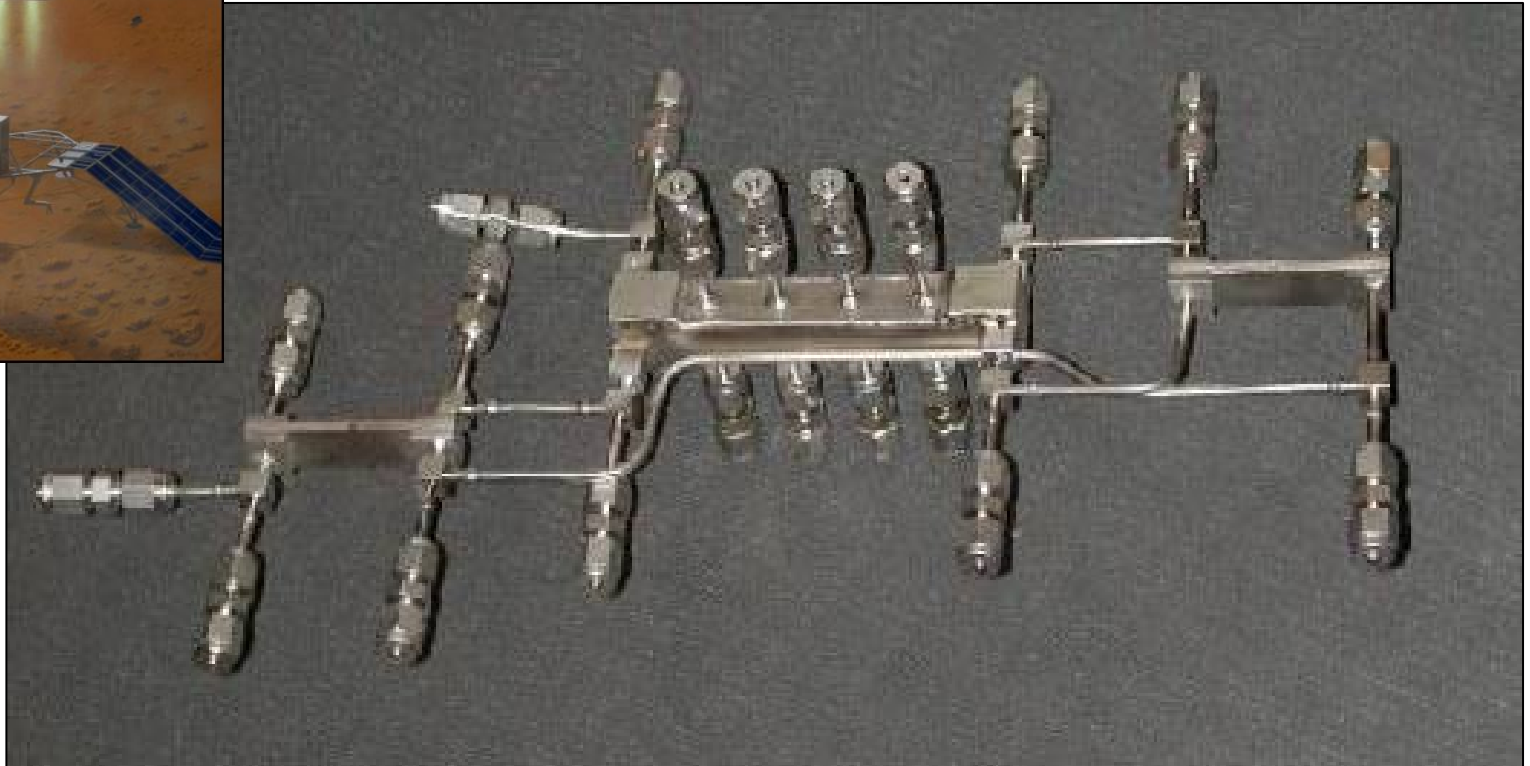
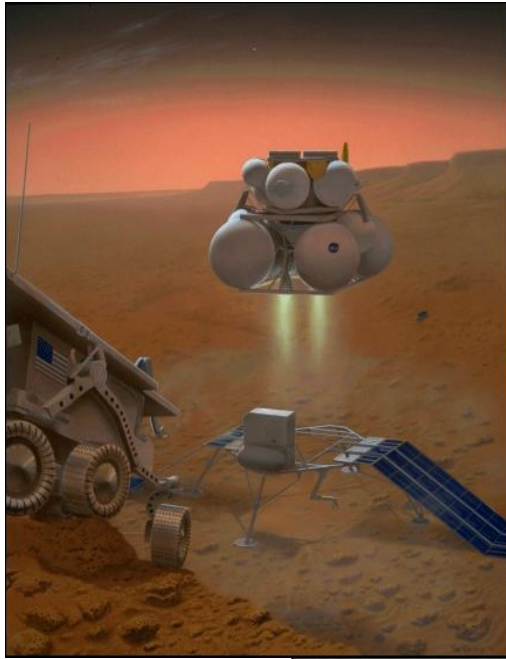
GREEN FORUM  
GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

December 2, 2008

Robert S. Wegeng  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory,  
Operated by Battelle Memorial Institute



# Mars Sample Return Mission



# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Methane Reforming Demonstration DLR / Sandia Demonstration, early 1990s



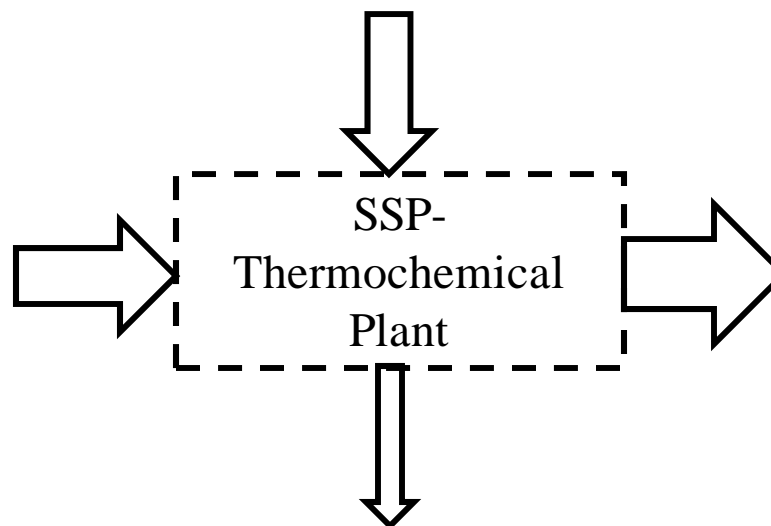
# Energy Balance

## Energy Choices Considered

- Direct Solar Only
- Direct Solar + Supplemental Energy

## Feedstocks Considered

- Natural Gas ( $\text{CH}_4$ )
- Biomass ( $\text{CH}_4 + \text{CO}_2$ )
- Zero-Energy Chemicals ( $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$ )



Waste Heat Out

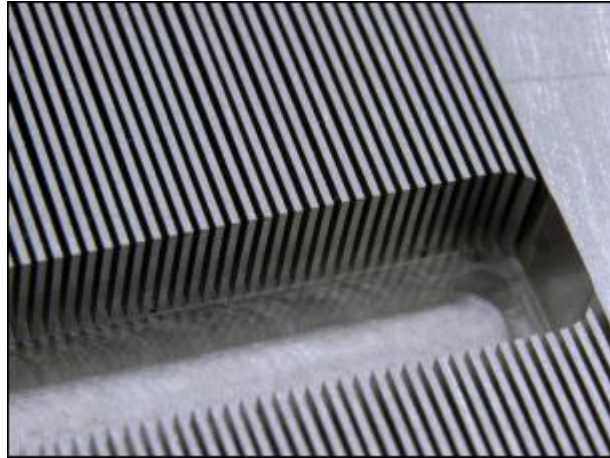
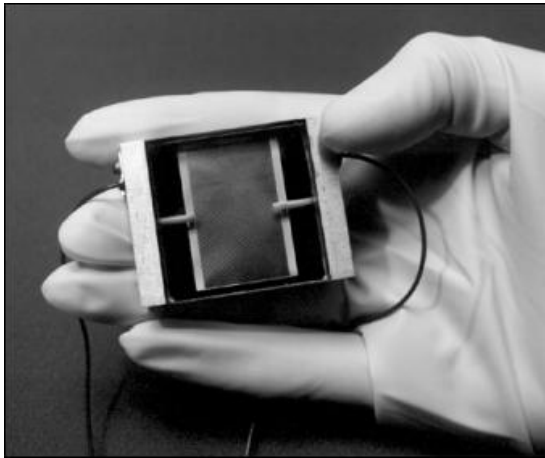
## Solar Fuels Considered

- Hydrogen ( $\text{H}_2$ )
- Synthetic Fuels ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_{2n+2}$ )
- Alcohols ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OH}$ )

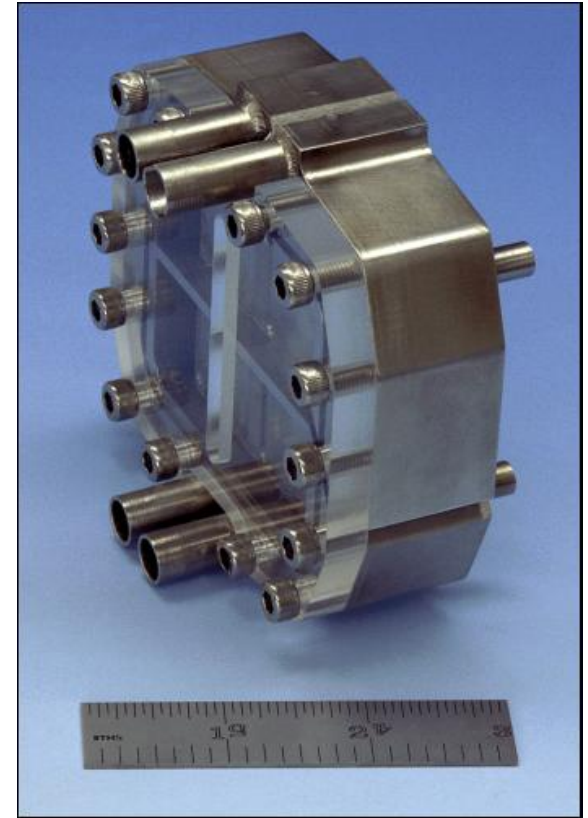


# Additional Considerations

## ▶ Microchannel Process Technology



## ▶ Space Solar Power



# Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Motivations
- ▶ Conventional: Solar Thermochemical
  - Operational Strategy
  - Concentrating Solar Thermal Power Systems
  - Solar Thermochemical Processing
  - Microchannel Process Technology
  - Production Estimates
- ▶ Non-conventional: Adding in Space Solar Power
  - Operational Strategy
  - Revised Production Estimates
- ▶ Conclusions

# SOLAR THERMOCHEMICAL FUELS PRODUCTION

## MOTIVATIONS



# Motivations: Energy Problems

- ▶ CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions // Global Warming
  - The debate has transitioned from whether the Earth is warming to a) how much? and b) what can we do about it?
- ▶ Peak Oil // Natural Gas // Coal
- ▶ Nuclear Energy // Nuclear Proliferation
- ▶ Oil Imports // Economics Impacts // Trade Deficits
  - The USA imports ~ 10 million barrels per day
  - = 3,650,000,000 barrels per year
  - @ ~\$40 - \$80 per barrel = \$1.5 T - \$3.0 T per decade
  - Economic impact <sup>1</sup> = \$10 T - \$20 T per decade
- ▶ ***An Apollo-magnitude program is warranted***

# Motivations: Attributes of the “Holy Grail” Solution

1. Must solve the oil import problem
  - *It must produce transportation fuels*
2. Must efficiently utilize renewable solar energy
  - *It will be capital- and technology-intensive*
3. Must reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions
  - *It must enable a transition from carbonaceous feedstocks to carbon-neutral and/or carbon-negative feedstocks*
4. Must be financially attractive
  - *It must be profitable*
  - *It must attract funds from the world-wide capital investment market*

# Solar Fuels

## ▶ Electrochemical

- Typically ~25% efficiency in converting solar energy to electric energy in photovoltaic systems
- Typically ~50-60% efficiency in converting electrical energy to chemical energy in electrolysis units
- Overall efficiency: ~10-15%

## ▶ Photochemical (including photosynthesis)

- Quantum efficiencies are typically very low

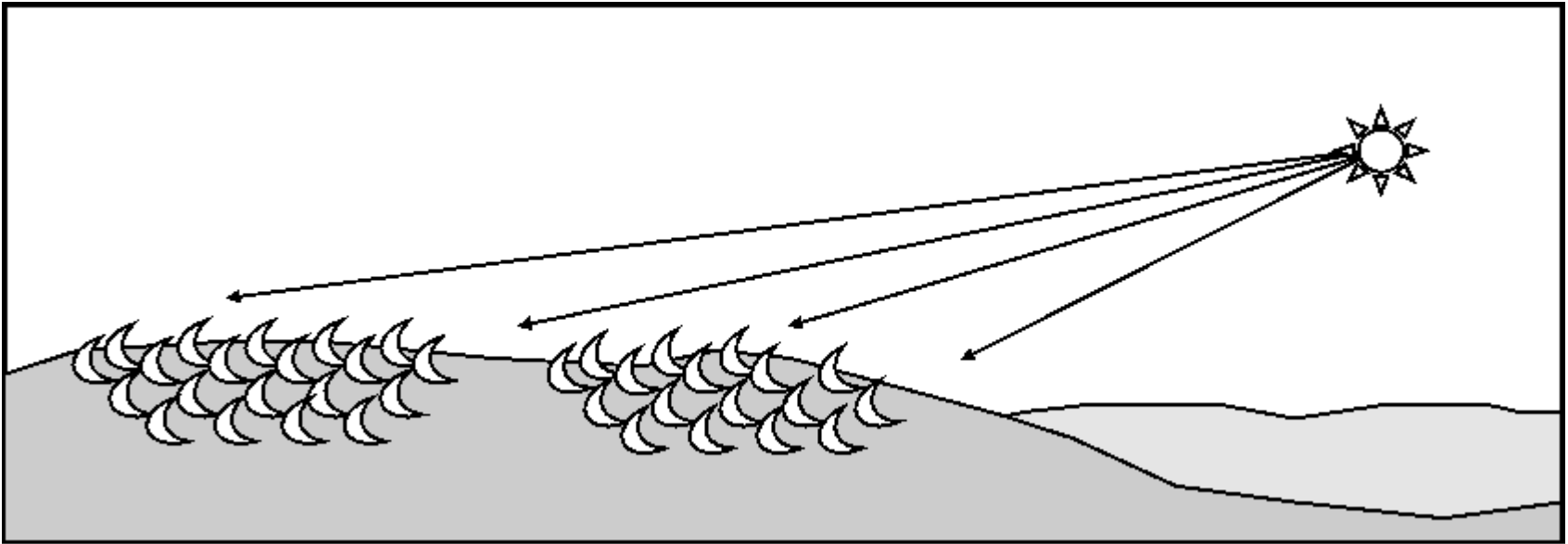
## ▶ **Thermochemical**

- ***Solar-to-thermal-to-chemical energy conversion efficiencies greater than 40% are demonstrated***
- ***60% or higher is feasible for the solar chemical receiver***
- ***Very high productivities are possible if feedstocks bring chemical energy***

# **SOLAR THERMOCHEMICAL FUELS PRODUCTION**

CONVENTIONAL SOLAR THERMOCHEMICAL

# Operational Strategy





# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP)





# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) 10 MWe Power Generation



# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Infinia Corporation – 3 kWe units



# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Stirling Energy Systems (SES) – 25 kWe Unit





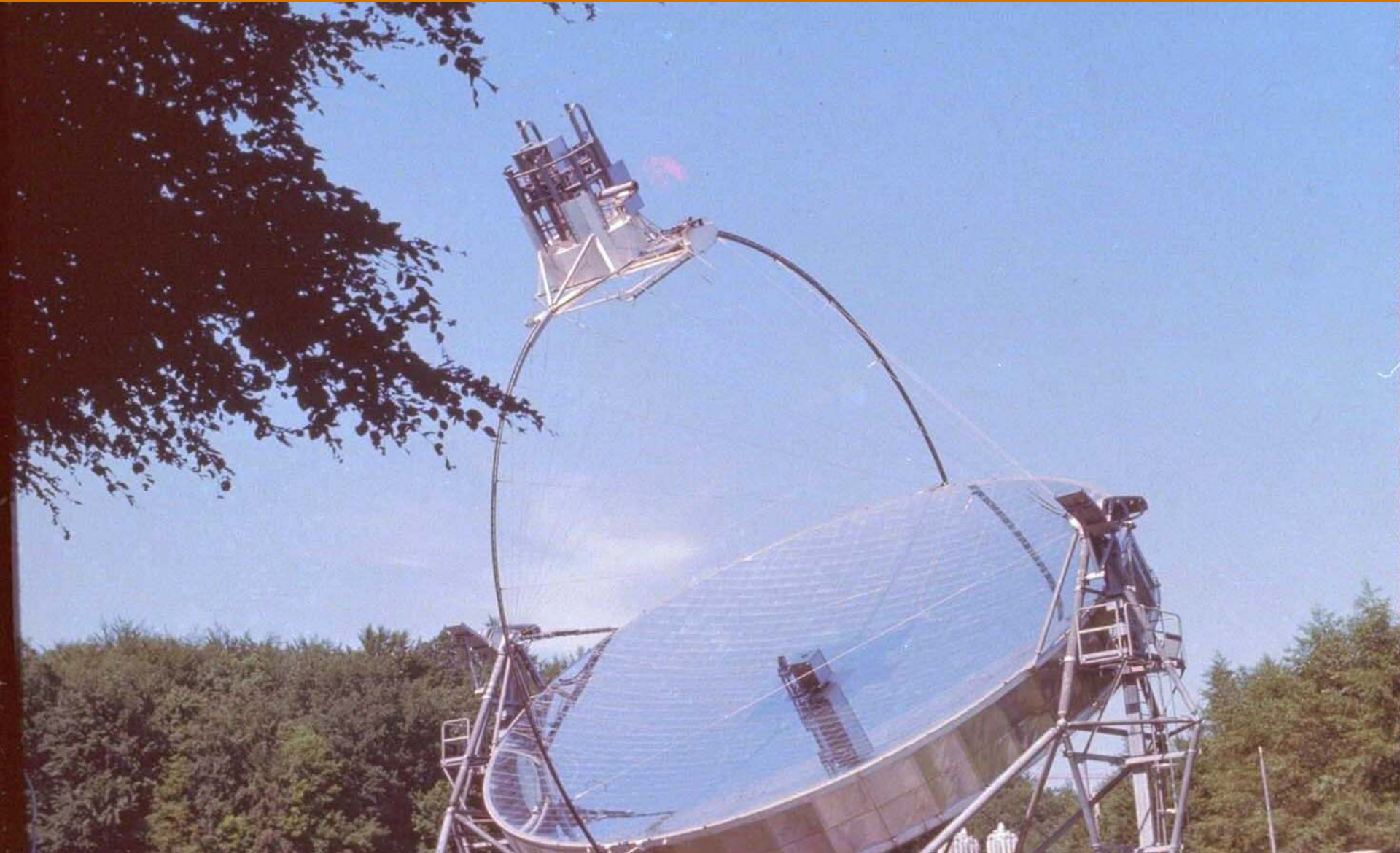
# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP)

## SES – 10,000 Parabolic Dish Concentrators





# Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Methane Reforming Demonstration DLR / Sandia Demonstration, early 1990s



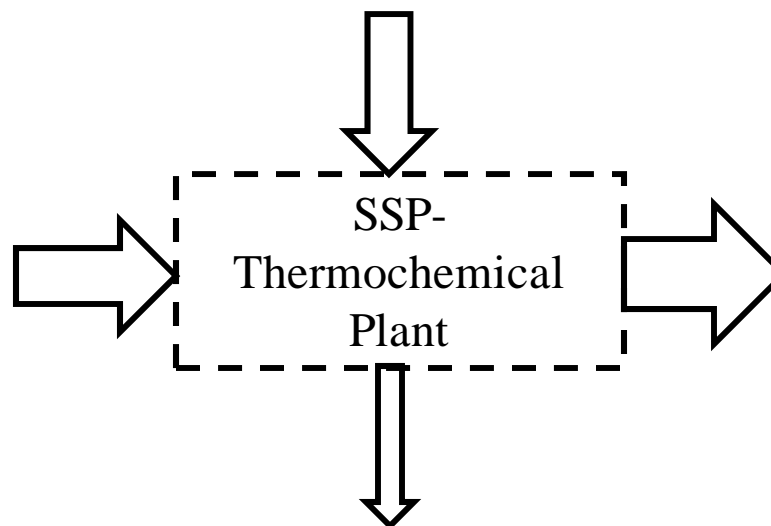
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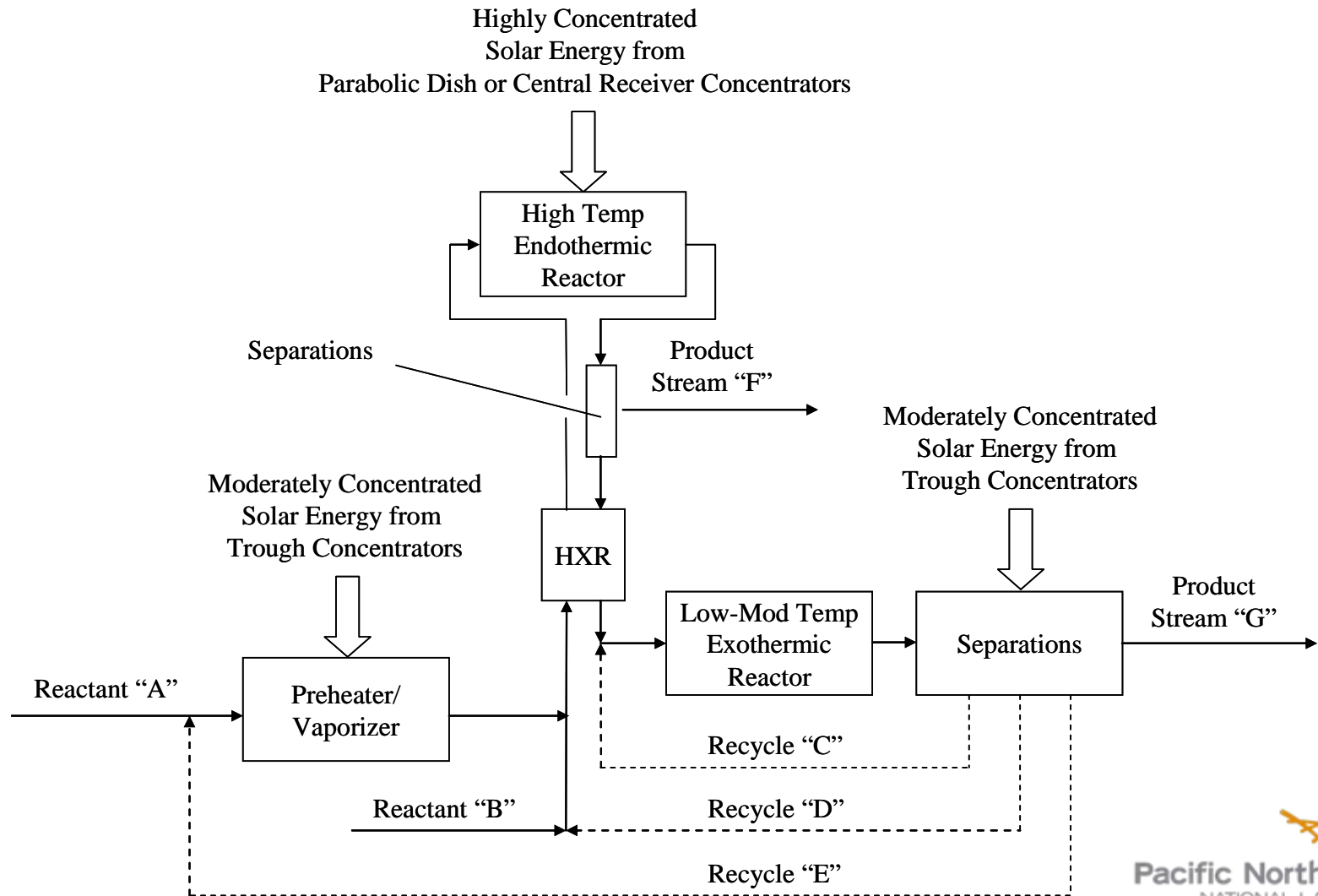
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Waste Heat Out



# Generic Chemical Process Flowsheet



# Idealized Net Thermochemical Processes Evaluated

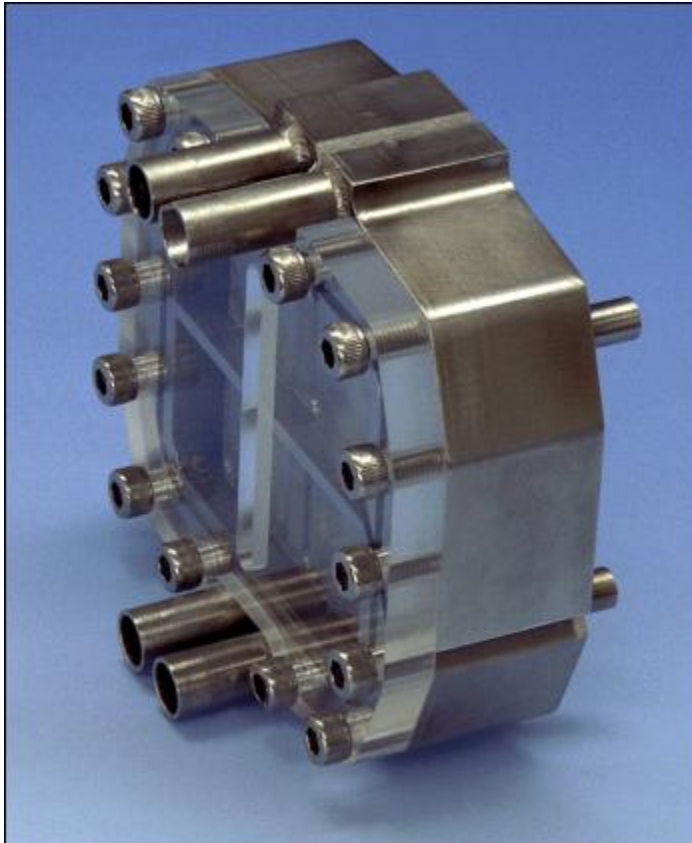
**Table 1 - List of Chemical Reactions**

Reactants	Primary Reactions	Net Thermochemical Process (Idealized)	Solar Fuels
$\text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	Methane Reforming plus Water-Gas-Shift	$\text{CH}_4 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} = 4\text{H}_2 + \text{CO}_2$	$\text{H}_2$
$\text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	Methane Reforming plus Fischer-Tropsch	$n\text{CH}_4 = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2} + (n-1)\text{H}_2$	$\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2} + \text{H}_2$
$\text{CH}_4 + \text{CO}_2$	Methane Reforming plus Fischer-Tropsch	$(3n+1)/4 \text{ CH}_4 + (n-1)/4 \text{ CO}_2 = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2} + (n-1)/2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2}$
$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Water-Splitting Processes	$\text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{H}_2 + 1/2\text{O}_2$	$\text{H}_2$
$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	Water-Splitting Processes plus Reverse Water-Gas Shift and Fischer-Tropsch	$n\text{CO}_2 + (n+1)\text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2} + (3n+1)\text{O}_2$	$\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2}$



# MICROCHANNEL PROCESS TECHNOLOGY

compact chemical processing chip



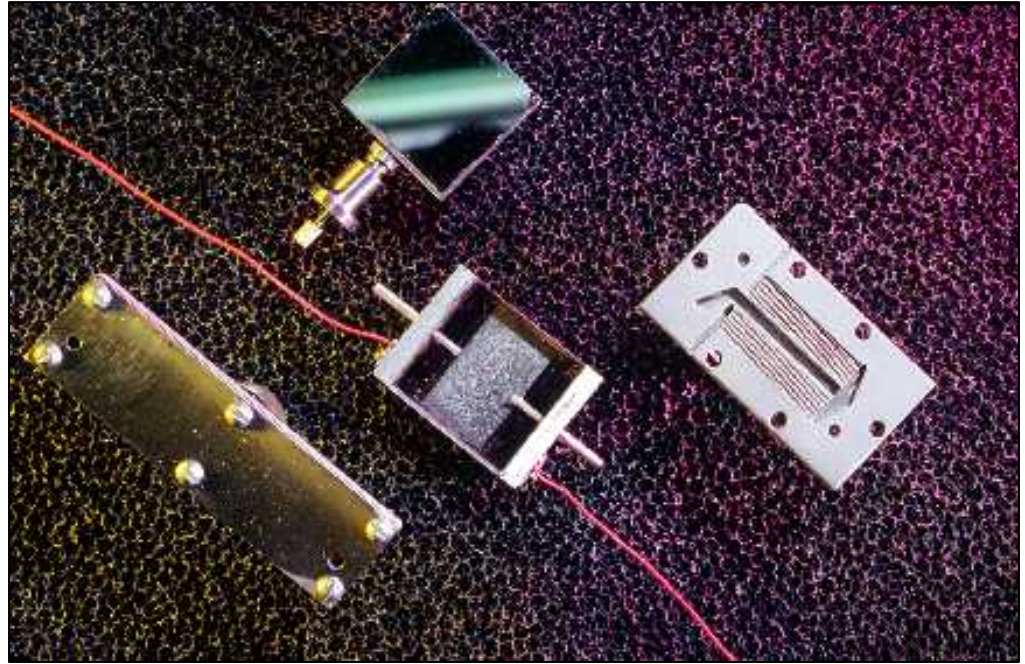
- ▶ Four cells each of microchannel reactors and heat exchangers
- ▶ Volume: 0.3 liters
- ▶ Processes/combusts 1400 SLPM

1999 R&D 100 Award Winner



# New Tools: Microchannel Process Technology

- Microchannel Heat Exchangers, Reactors and Separations units
- Miniaturization:
  - Process Intensification
  - High capacities
  - Lightweight systems
  - Mass Production



DARPA/DOD:

NASA:

Department of Energy

AICHE/DECHEMA

MEMS, Mesoscopic Machines

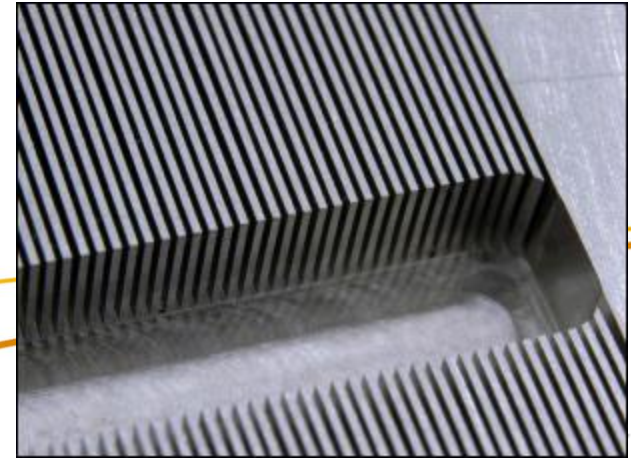
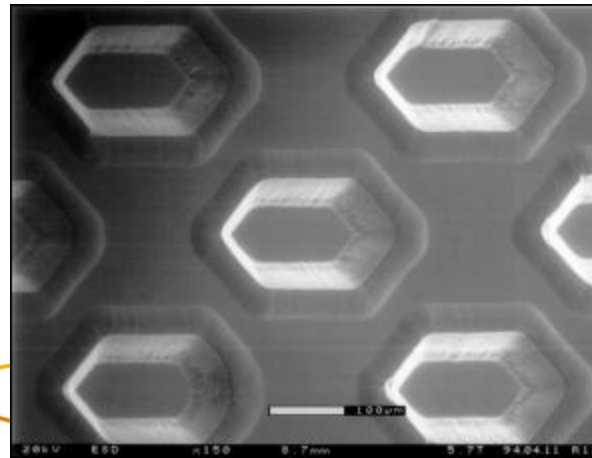
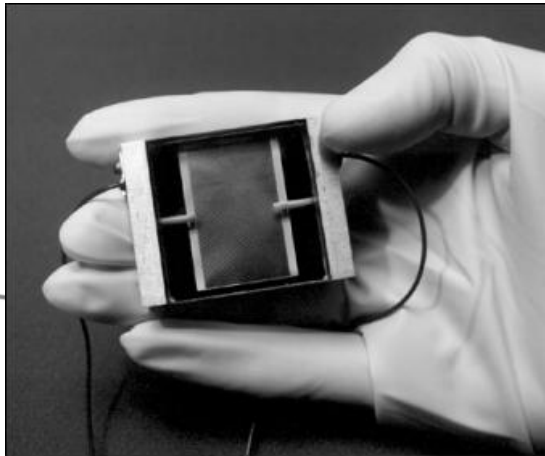
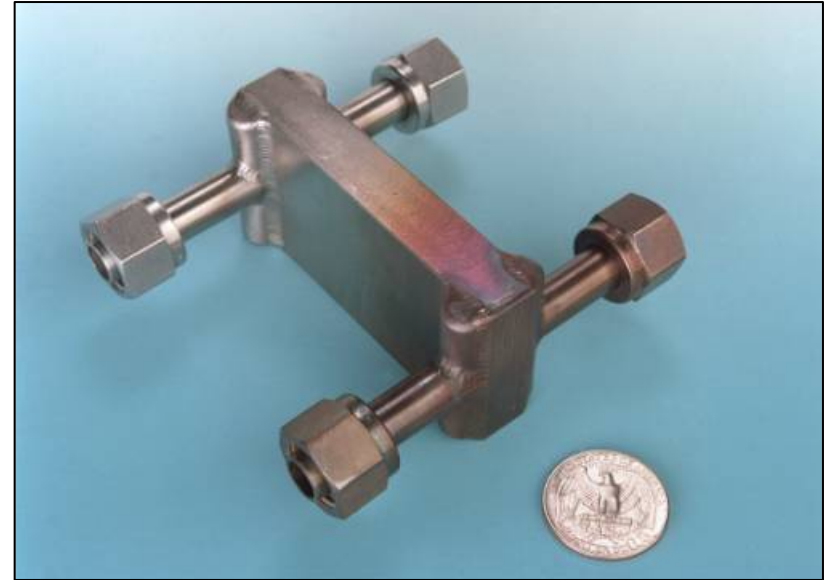
Micro/Nano Systems

MicroCATS

Microreaction Technology

# Microchannel Heat Exchangers

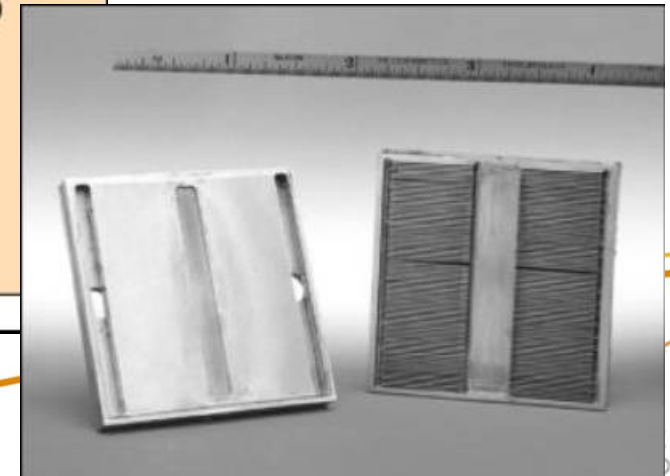
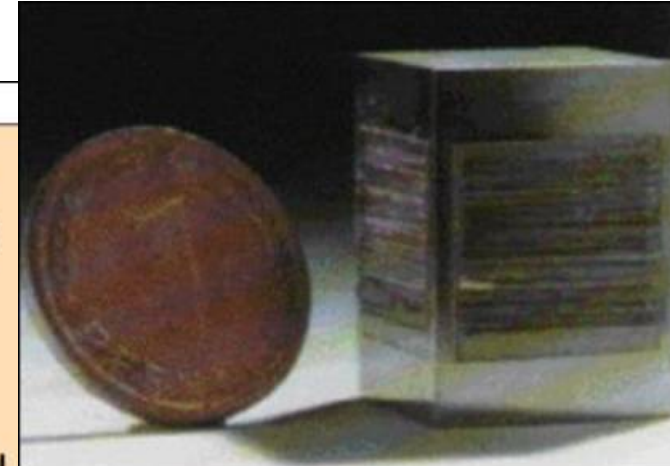
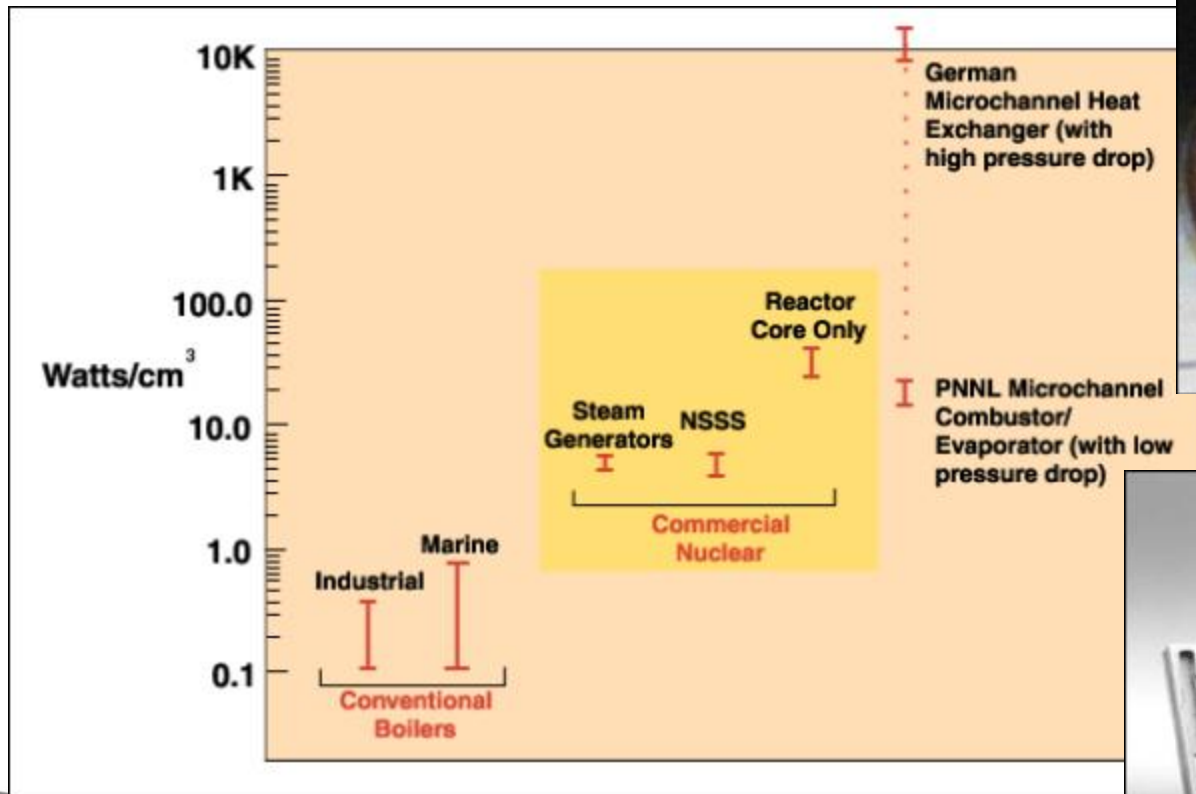
- ▶ **High heat duties**
  - 10 – 100 watts/cm<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ **Low pressure drops**
- ▶ **High heat transfer effectiveness**
  - Up to 90% (or greater)



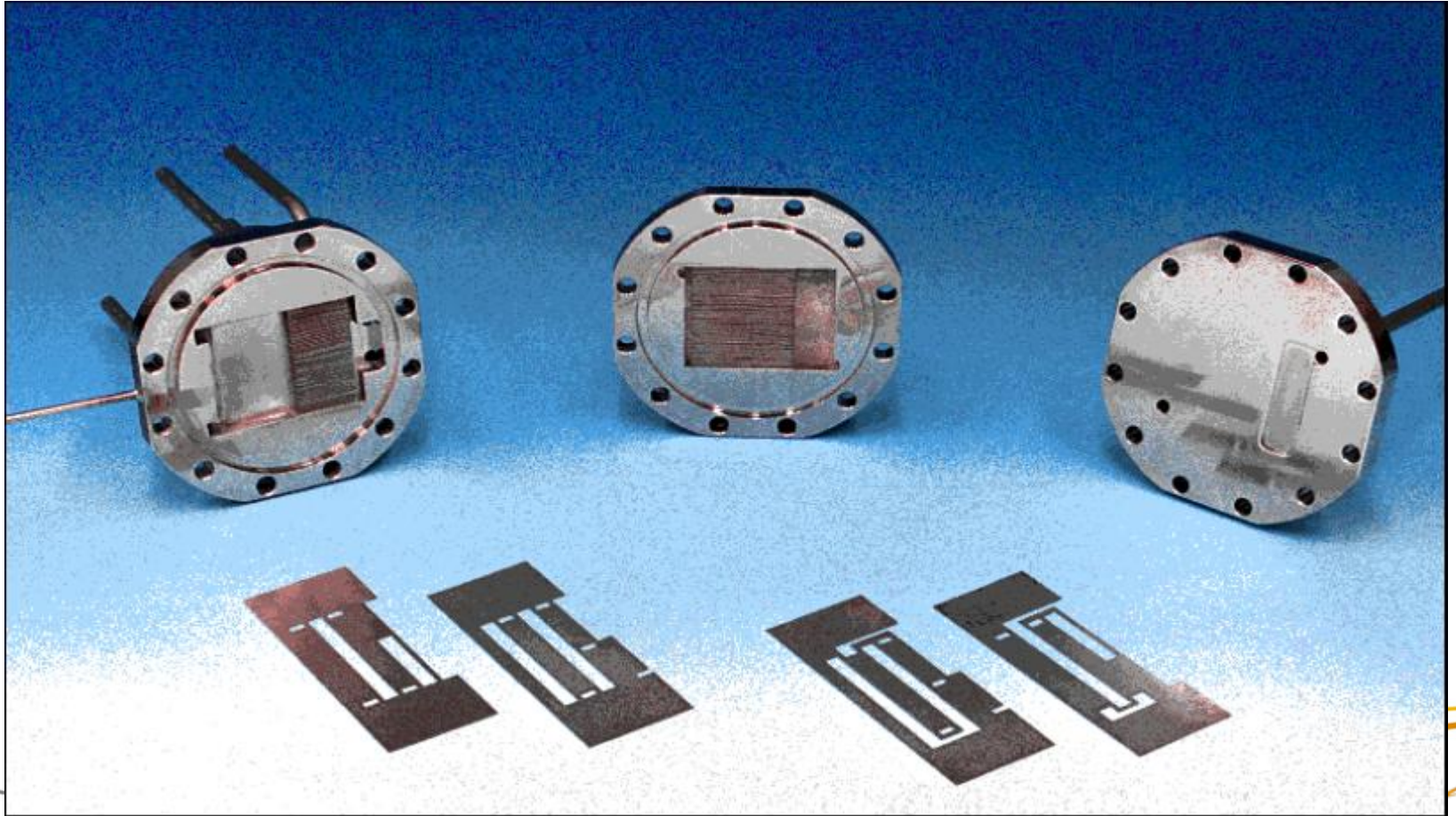


# MICROCHANNEL HEAT EXCHANGER DUTY

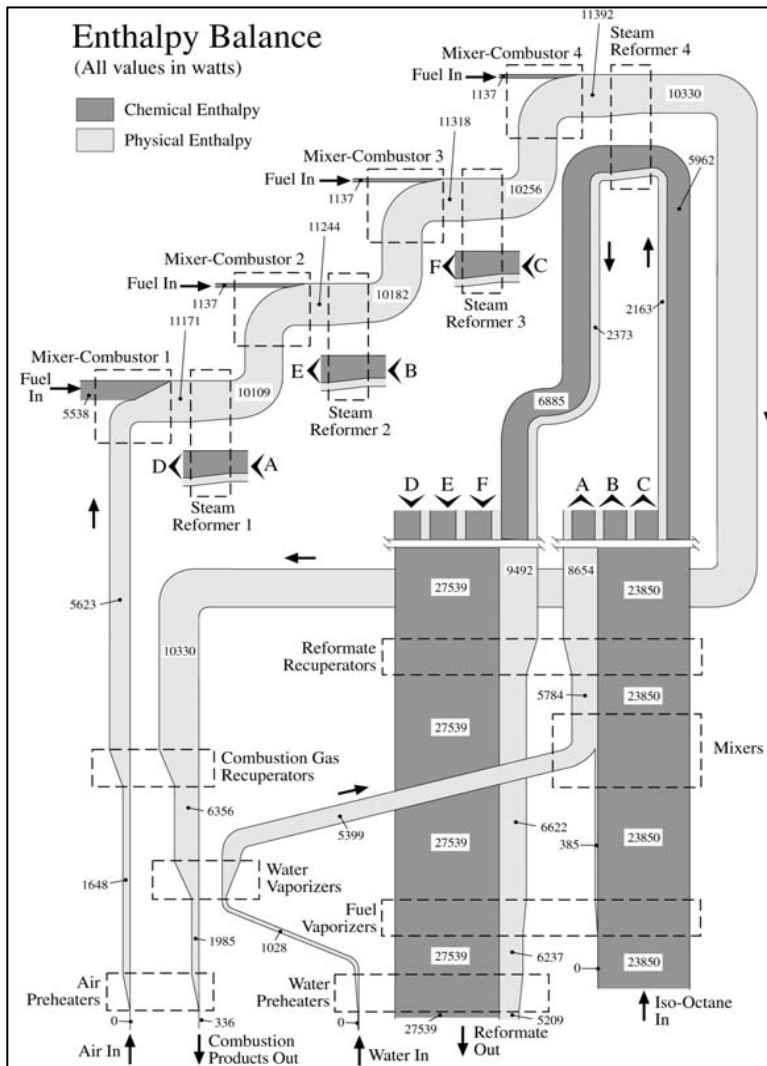
Heat transfer per unit hardware volume



# FABRICATION FOR MASS PRODUCTION



# Efficient, Process-Intensive Microchannel Process Technology

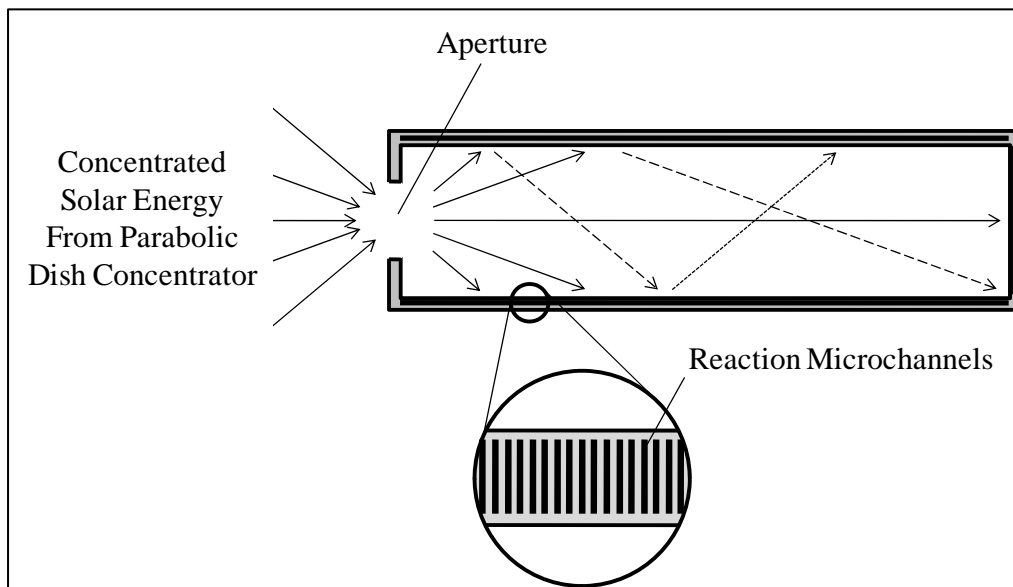
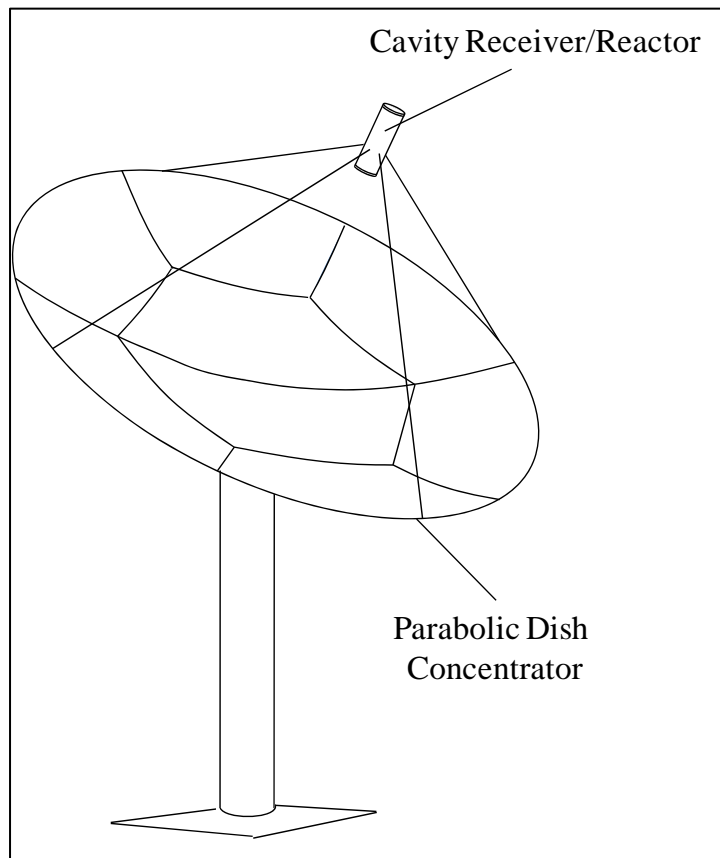




# “Chemical Process Chips”



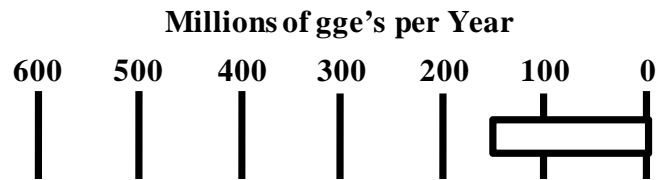
# Microchannel Cavity Reactor/Receiver



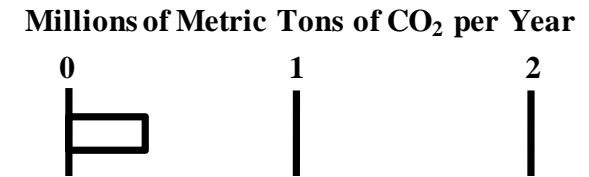


# Production Estimates 10,000 Dish System

- ▶ 100 kW's per dish
- ▶ 1 GW's total
- ▶ Occupies a few square kilometers



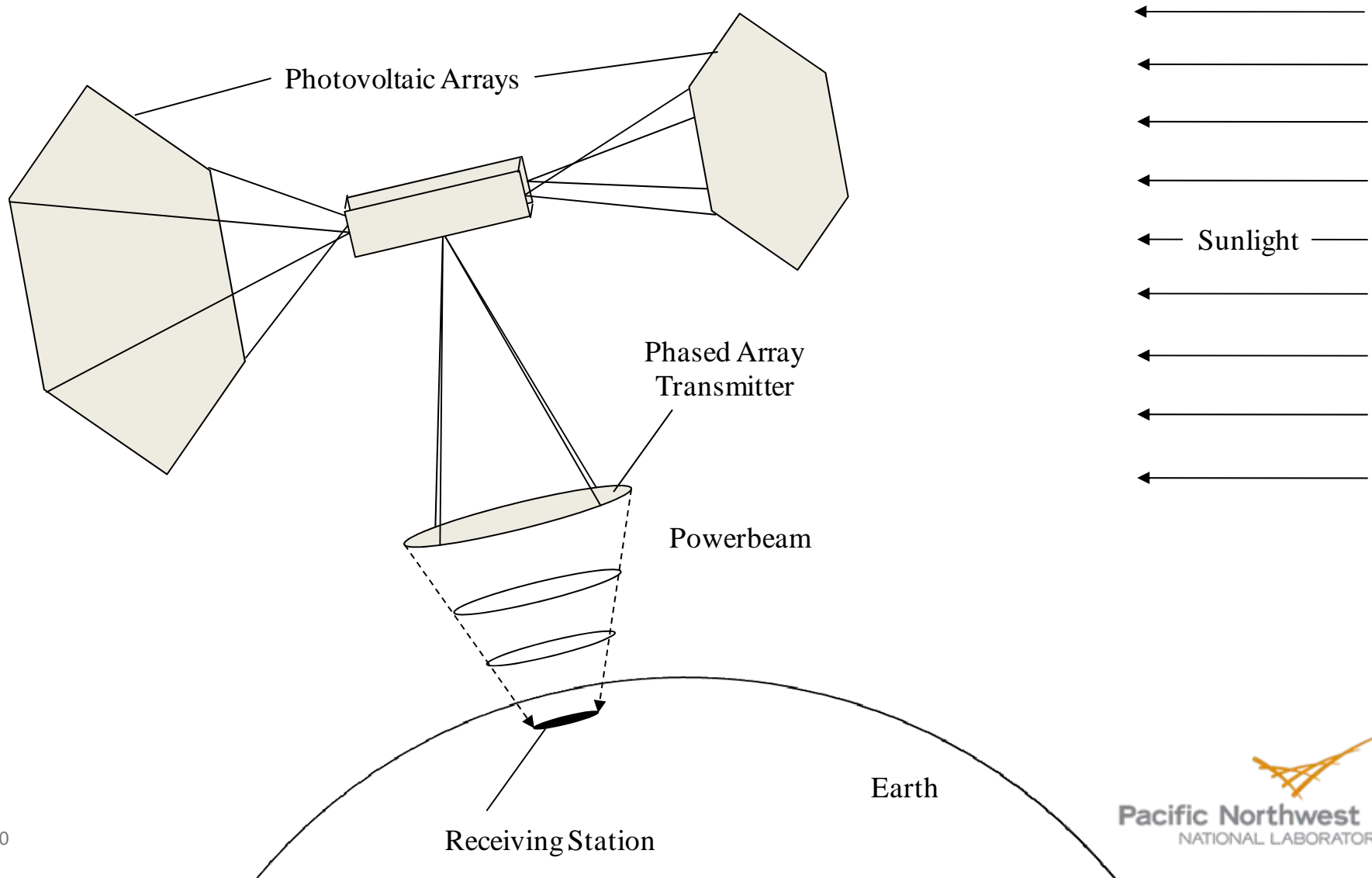
Hydrogen from Natural Gas  
Direct Solar Only



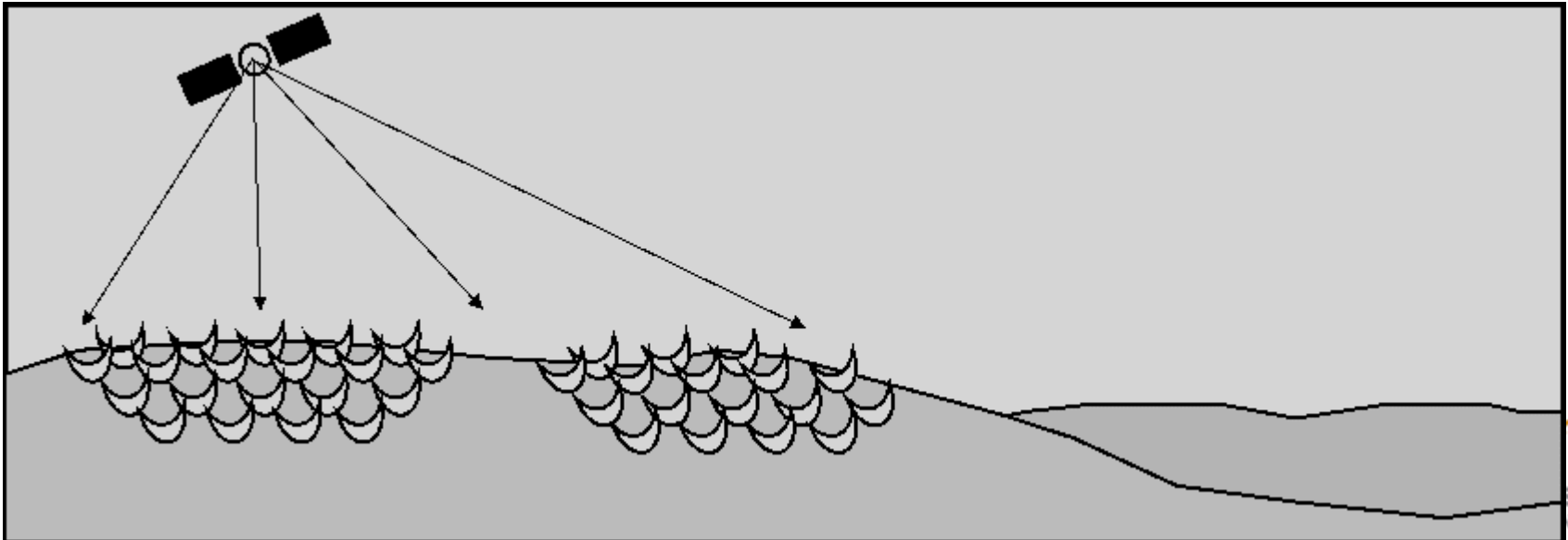
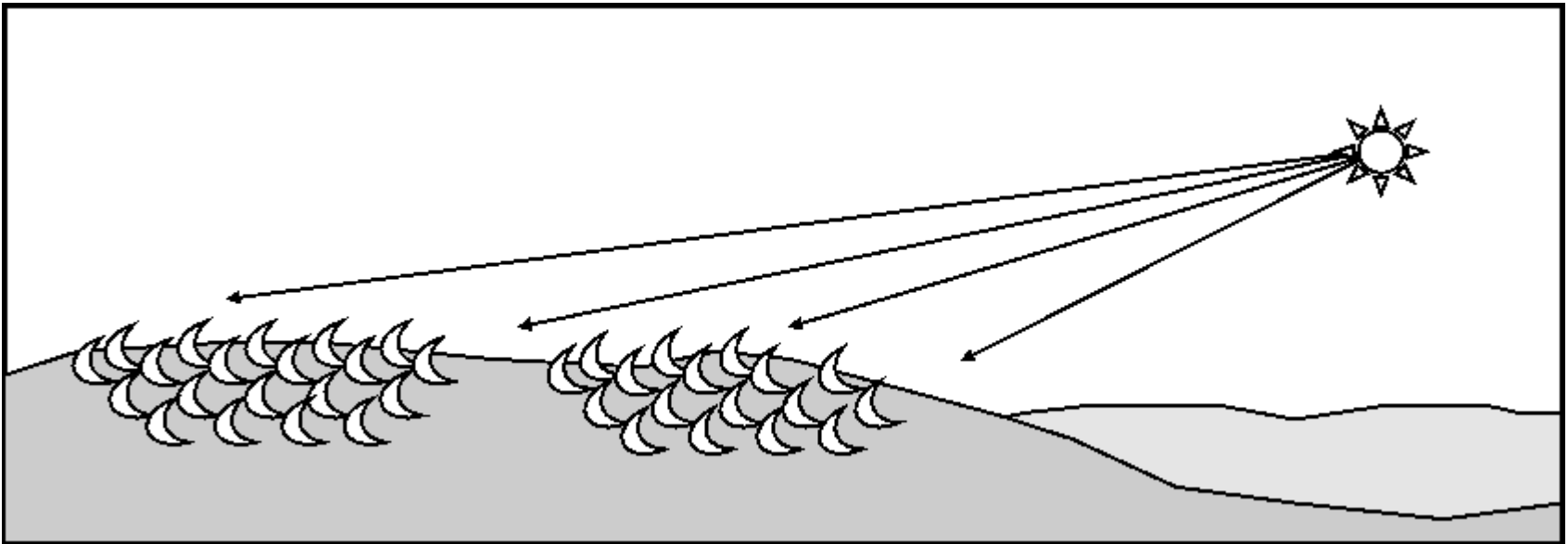
# **SOLAR THERMOCHEMICAL FUELS PRODUCTION**

**NON-CONVENTIONAL:  
ADDING IN SPACE SOLAR POWER**

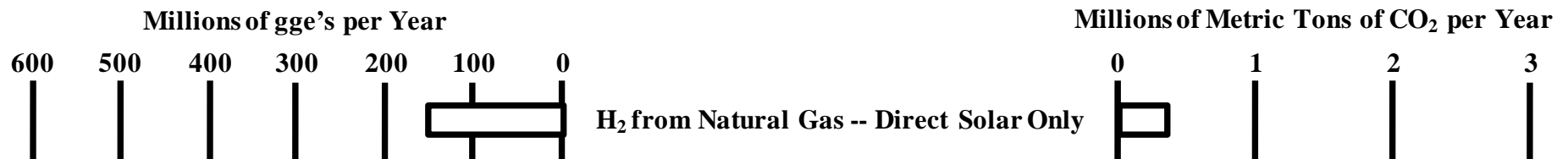
# SSP – Baseline Concept



# Operational Strategy Including Space Solar Power



# Production Estimates using SSP Energy 10,000 Dish System



- ▶ Space Solar Power supports additional reductions in fossil fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# SOLAR THERMOCHEMICAL FUELS PRODUCTION

## CONCLUSIONS

# Conclusions - I

- ▶ A “reference Solar-Thermochemical Plant”
  - 10,000 dishes *over a few square kilometers*
  - Collectively intercepting 1.0 GW<sub>r</sub>
  - Thermochemical efficiencies in the Receiver of 40% *or greater* are possible
  - Can produce  $\sim 10^6$  gge/day (if biomass is the feedstock)
  - Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 2,000,000 MT/year
- ▶ Forty “reference plants” using biomass as the feedstock
  - Would require 100 – 200 square kilometers
  - Could offset  $\sim 10\%$  of USA oil imports
  - Reducing transportation sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by  $\sim 6.6\%$

# Conclusions - II

- ▶ System concept does not depend on Space Solar Power
- ▶ Hybrid plants, using sunlight AND the powerbeam from an orbiting satellite, can
  - Increase the production of solar fuels
  - And reduce fossil fuel consumption and net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- ▶ However, Space Solar Power is still an “iffy” proposition

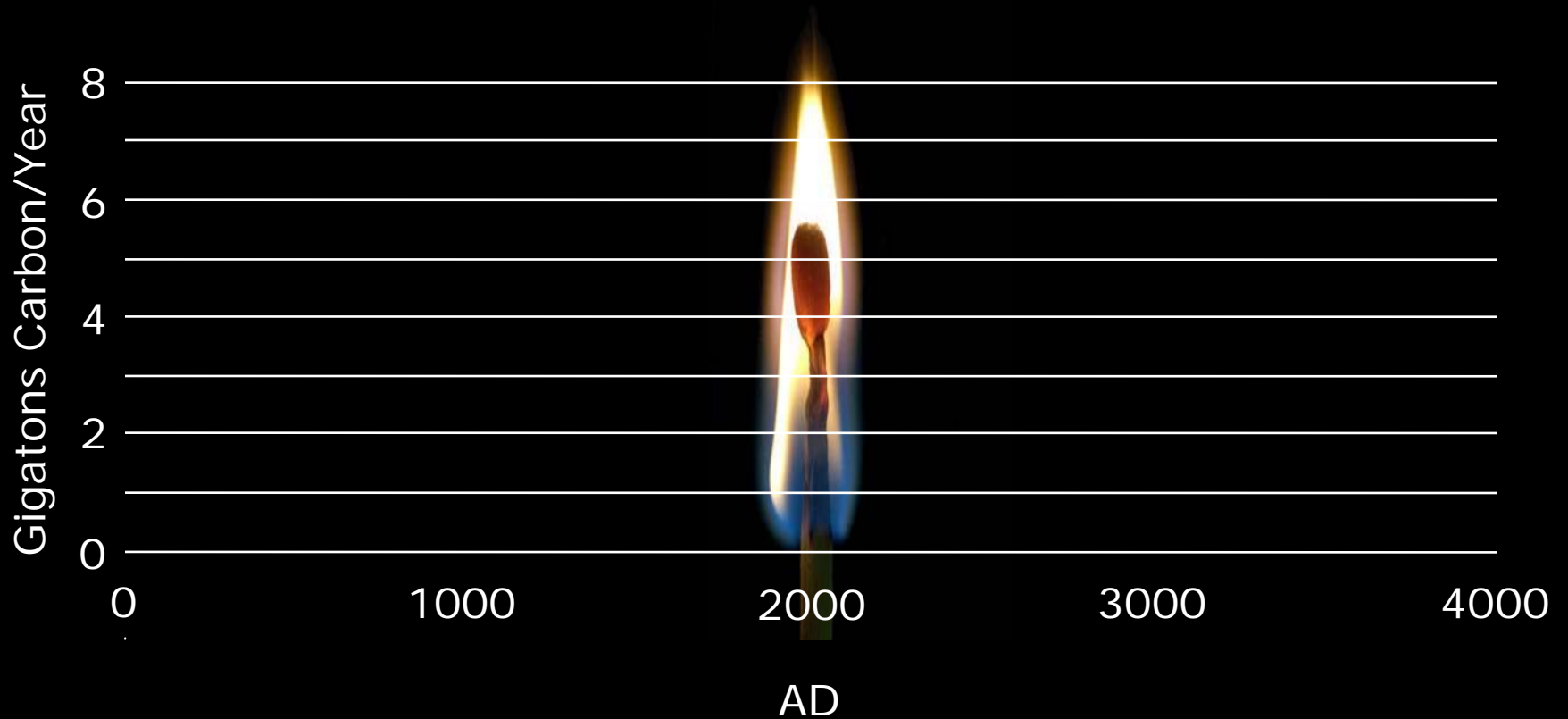
# Conclusions - III

- ▶ Economic benefits of successfully developing solar fuels:
  - \$10 T – \$20 T per decade (national)
  - Reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# FOSSIL ENERGY

*"a single match"*



# SOLAR ENERGY

